

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the discussion below.

According to the present Office Action, the previous rejection of September 19, 2002 has been overcome by the amendment filed January 21, 2003 but a new grounds of rejection has been applied based on newly cited and newly applied prior art.

Claims 1-28 and 32-34 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatenable over the reference to Lowery, U.S. Patent No. 6,504,301 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,943 to Yamamoto for the reasons indicated as pages 3-5 of the patent Office Action.


In response to this rejection applicants have amended each of independent claims 1 and 32 to provide structure not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the references.

Claim 31 has been indicated as allowable based on its relationship to a dental process while, on the other hand, claim 32 has been rejected because the term "for use in dental procedures" was not given in weight because it was a statement of intended use. Claim 32 has been amended to recite that the unconverted light yields a light with the wavelength spectrum of the color white in order to illuminate hard tooth substances.

According to the statement of the rejection, the primary reference to Lowery does not show an associated light guide but the secondary reference to Yamamoto shows the use of light wave converter elements in association with an optical light guide. The conclusion of the rejection is that it would have been

obvious to have included a light guide in combination with the light wave converter of Lowery.

In response to this rejection and in accordance with the previously discussed claim limitation during the personal interview of January 17, 2003 between applicants attorney and the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to recite that there is a "converter plate adjacent to one end of the light guide". Although this limitation was discussed in terms of the first Office Action, applicants submit that claim 1 with this limitation also defines over any obvious combination of the references of record in this new rejection based on Lowery and Yamamoto.

Additionally, applicants have added new claims 35 and 36 with claim 35 depending on claim 32 and further limiting the light wave converter to the light wave converter plate adjacent to one end of the light guide and with claim 36 limiting claim 1 so that the exit port outputs a directed form of the light with the wavelength from the spectrum of the color white in order to illuminate a tooth surface for facilitating a dental procedure. 

In light of the indication and the outstanding Office Action concerning limitations to dental procedure and in view of the previous indications concerning the recitation of the converter plate adjacent one end of the light guide, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-28 and 31-36 are allowable.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claim 14, applicants have amended claim 14 in the manner indicated by the Examiner.

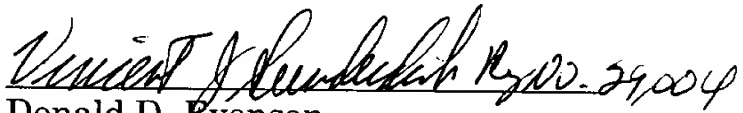
Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this application be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1860/49624).

Respectfully submitted,

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